

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:	)		
J. Donald HILL et al.	)	Examiner:	Thomas C. BARRETT
Application No.: 09/987,976	)	Group Art Unit:	3738
Filed: November 16, 2001	)	Confirmation No.	7910
For: AUTOMATIC SUTURE FIXATION	)		
APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR	)		
MINIMALLY INVASIVE CARDIAC	)		
SURGERY	)		

REQUEST FOR ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND AND RESPONSIVE  
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

**MAIL STOP AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Office Action, mailed August 23, 2005, please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

**Request for One-Month Extension of Time to Respond** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Request for Reconsideration** begins on page 9 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.

**Conclusion** begins on page 13 of this paper.

**Request for One-Month Extension of Time to Respond:**

Applicants respectfully request a one-month extension of time for filing a response to the Office Action, mailed August 23, 2005, in the above-captioned patent application. As a result of this request, the deadline to respond is extended up to and including **December 23, 2005**. Applicants respectfully request that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) charge the amount of \$60 covering the requisite, small entity fee (Fee Code 2251) for a one-month extension of time to respond to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the PTO, please charge or credit any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.